

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, CA
SUBJECT: UNSSOD: PROPOSED CANADIAN AMENDMENTS TO SSOD
PROGRAM OF ACTION

REF: (A) USUN 2211 (B) STATE 143724

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT BARTON GROUP MEETING ON JUNE 7, CANADA PRESENTED REVISED LANGUAGE ON ITS PROPOSALS FOR SSOD PROGRAM OF ACTION REGARDING FLIGHT TESTING OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES, CUT-OFF OF PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS, AND A FREEZE ON R AND D ON NEW STRATEGIC SYSTEMS. US AND UK REPS SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THESE PROPOSALS, AND ITALIAN AND BELGIAN REPS VOICED SUPPORT FOR US/UK POSITIONS. NO REPEAT NO DELEGATION EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN PROPOSALS. CANADIANS INDICATED THEY INTEND TO GO FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS "IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER."
END SUMMARY.

2. AT BARTON GROUP MEETING ON JUNE 7, CANADIAN REPS
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CIRCULATED REVISED LANGUAGE ON THE AMENDMENTS THEY PROPOSE (REFTEL A) TO DRAFT PROGRAM OF ACTION:

(A) IN REGARD TO SALT SECTION OF PAGE 27, CANADA NOW PROPOSES ADDING AS NEW SENTENCE AT END OF ALTERNATIVE 3: "AGREEMENT BY THE TWO MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS TO PROHIBIT THE FLIGHT-TESTING OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES THAT

HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN FLIGHT-TESTED COULD SERVE AS ONE MEANS TO CURB THE QUALITATIVE DIMENSION OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE TO THE EXTENT THAT COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH PROHIBITIONS CAN BE VERSIFIED BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS."

(B) IN SECTION ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ON PAGE 27, CANADA NOW PROPOSES ADDING FOLLOWING SEPARATE PARAGRAPH AFTER EXISTING SECOND PARAGRAPH: "AN AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY THE TWO MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS TO CEASE PRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PURPOSES. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENT ON ADEQUATE VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FULL-SCOPE (COMPREHENSIVE) SAFEGUARDS."

(C) PARALLEL TO THIS, CANADA NOW PROPOSES ADDING FOLLOWING SEPARATE PARAGRAPH TO NON-PROLIFERATION SECTION ON PAGE 33: "IF AN ADEQUATELY VERIFIED AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR POWERS TO CEASE THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES, A MULTILATERAL TREATY PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR OTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SUCH A TREATY, TO WHICH NUCLEAR-WEAPON AND NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES MIGHT ADHERE, WOULD PROVIDE A COMMON BASIS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF FULL-SCOPE (COMPREHENSIVE) SAFEGUARDS."

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(D) AND IN SECTION ON PAGE 37 ON REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS AND ARMED FORCES, CANADA WISHES TO ADD FOLLOWING SEPARATE PARAGRAPH AFTER EXISTING FIRST PARAGRAPH: "FREEZING AND THEN GRADUALLY REDUCING, ON AN AGREED AND VERIFIABLE BASIS, SPENDING ON THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS BY THE MAJOR NUCLEAR POWERS WOULD BE A FURTHER MEANS OF CURBING THE QUALITATIVE DIMENSION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. SUCH AGREEMENTS ON RESTRAINT OR REDUCTION WILL REQUIRE FULL OPENNESS IN REPORTING AND FULL EFFECTIVENESS IN AUTHENTICATING MILITARY BUDGETS."

3. CANADIAN REP DREW ATTENTION TO THESE REVISIONS AT MEETING AND ASKED FOR COMMENTS BY OTHER DELEGATIONS ON URGENT BASIS. US REP IN REPLYING, SAID THAT US WAS NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO THRUST OF PROPOSED CANADIAN AMENDMENT TO DRAFT LANGUAGE ON SALT BUT THEIR REVISED LANGUAGE STILL PRESENTED SERIOUS PROBLEMS. HE THEN DREW ON REFTEL B TO DESCRIBE NATURE OF THESE PROBLEMS IN CONTEXT OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE, US REP ALSO DEALT WITH DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE WITH CANADIAN PROPOSALS ON CESSATION

OF PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PURPOSES AND A FREEZE ON SPENDING ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

4. ITALIAN REP STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE US REP AND STATED THAT THIS ISSUE MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRST OF ALL BY THE NUCLEAR POWERS. HE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH ITALY MIGHT BE ABLE TO AGREE PHILOSOPHICALLY WITH THE CANADIANS BASIC INTENTIONS IN THESE AREAS, ITALY WOULD DEFER TO THE JUDGMENT OF THE NUCLEAR MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCES.

5. UK REP STATED THAT HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION IS VERY SECRET

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SIMILAR TO THAT OF US, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON CUT-OFF. HE SAID CUT-OFF AS A CONCEPT MAY HAVE ITS PLACE "FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD" IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT AS AN IMMEDIATE MEASURE. HE EXPRESSED EQUALLY STRONG PROBLEMS WITH THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, STRE-

SSING THAT THIS WOULD PRESENT SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN REGARD TO VERIFICATION.

6. CANADIAN REP STATED IN RESPONSE TO THESE COMMENTS THAT HIS DELEGATION IS UNDER PRESSURE TO GET ITS PROPOSALS ON THE RECORD IN THE SSOD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN THESE PROPOSALS, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD BE NEEDED VERY URGENTLY. HE POINTED OUT THAT CANADA DOES NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE THE SHAPE OF AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ON CUT-OFF, BUT ONLY TO STATE IN THE PROGRAM THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT "SHOULD BE SOUGHT." ON FLIGHT TESTING, HE REITERATED THAT CANADA IS REFERRING ONLY TO NEW SYSTEMS AND THAT SUCH A PROHIBITION "COULD" SERVE AS A MEANS TO CURB ARMS RAC RACE.

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7. US REP REPLIED THAT WHILE WE WOULD STUDY THESE PROPOSALS CAREFULLY, HE COULD SEE BASIC PROBLEMS IN THE CANADIAN APPROACH. THESE WERE DELICATE MATTERS AND HE POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET REACTIONS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE SAID THAT THE REVISED CANADIAN LANGUAGE, AND ANY ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS SUGGESTED BY OTHER BARTON GROUP MEMBERS, WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON FOR USG CONSIDERATION.

8. BELGIAN REP EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR CONCERNS OF US AND UK AND POINTED OUT THAT SINCE FLIGHT TESTING IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES IN SALT, WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL AT SSOD NOT TO PREEMPT POSSIBLE OPTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY PROPOSALS WHICH COULD AFFECT CRUISE MISSILE OR THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION QUESTION IN SALT COULD HAVE A SERIOUS IMPACT ON SOME OF THE WESTERN ALLIES. HE DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED FREEZE ON R AND D AS AN EQUALLY DIFFICULT QUESTION, AS IT WOULD BE "PRACTICALLY UNVERIFIABLE". IN SUM, HE FELT THAT CANADIAN PROPOSALS IN GENERAL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO TRANSLATE INTO PRACTICE.

9. CANADIAN REPS DREW US REPS ASIDE AFTER MEETIN TO EMPHASIZE INFORMALLY THAT CANADA IS COMMITTED TO GOING FORWARD IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER WITH PROPOSALS IN THESE AREAS AS THEY CONSTITUTE INTEGRAL PART OF PRIME MINISTER'S SSOD SPEECH. THEY SAID PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAS STRONG INTEREST IN THESE PROPOSALS AND THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM OF ACTION IN SOME FORM. CANADIAN REPS EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT US COULD FIND WAY TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH CANADA ON PARTICULAR WORKING OF THESE PROPOSALS. US REPS POINTED OUT, THAT SINCE THESE PROPOSALS

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DEAL WITH COMPLEX QUESTIONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SENSITIVE
ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS, THEY COULD NOT OFFER MUCH HOPE
THAT REWORDING COULD MAKE THEM ACCEPTABLE TO US.

10. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED AT BARTON GROUP MEETING
WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. YOUNG

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